

Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Public Participation

Call: 888-327-8914

Passcode: 6829 265#

GEF II/ Room 613

101 S. Webster Street

Madison, Wisconsin

TIME	PRESENTER	ITEMS & TYPE
11:30 a.m.	Joel Patenaude, Chair	Welcome and introductions
11:35 a.m.	New Members, William Johnson & Bill Pennoyer	Introductions
11:40 a.m.	Members	Agenda review/repair and approval of December meeting minutes
11:45 a.m.	Members	Committee Chair Reports
12:05 p.m.	William Johnson	WI State Trail Pass Vendor
12:20 p.m.	Geoff Snudden	Paths for People discussion
12:30 p.m.	William Hauda	E Mountain Bike discussion
12:40 p.m.	Kathryn Gehrke, Brigit Brown, John Pohlman	DNR Update
1:00 p.m.	Jill Mrotek-Glenzinski	DOT Update
1:10 p.m.	Guests	Public comment
1:15 p.m.	Members	Nominate potential future agenda items
1:20 p.m.	Members	Set next meeting date
1:25 p.m.	Joel Patenaude, Chair	Adjourn

Nonmotorized Recreation and Transportation Trails Council

MINUTES

March 4, 2020 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Room 613 GEF II

Madison, WI

Telephone 888-327-8914, passcode 6829 265#

1. Meeting was called to order by Joel Patenaude.

a. Roll Call for Attendance (11:30—11:34 a.m.)

- i. Ben Popp (phone)
- ii. Joel Patenaude
- iii. Geoff Snudden (phone)
- iv. Bill Hauda (phone)
- v. Rod Bartlow
- vi. David Phillips
- vii. Anne Murphy (phone)
- viii. William Johnson (phone)
- ix. William Pennoyer
- x. Staff: Kathryn Gehrke (DNR)
- xi. DOT: Jill Mrotek Glenzinski
- xii. Invited Guests: Brigit Brown, John Pohlman (DNR)
- xiii. Not Present - Blake Theisen

2. New Members Give Introductions (11:34-11:40)

- a. William Johnson, representing County forests and parks, involved with many trail issues particularly Stower and Gandy Dancer. Career in local government, tourism and economic development in NW Wisconsin.
- b. Bill Pennoyer, representing nonmotorized trail user, career in architecture and recently retired, served many years on parks and forestry board in Wauwatosa/Milwaukee area. Strong passion for silent sports and outdoor recreation.

3. Approval/Discussion of Meeting Minutes from December 2019 (11:40-11:42)

Jill Mrotek Glenzinski asked to clarify Bill Hauda's name from "a proposed bill" in section 4a.

Dave Phillips motions for approval of amended December minutes, Rod Bartlow seconds, none opposed, minutes approved.

4. Chair Reports (11:42-11:50)

a. Outreach (Joel, Anne, Geoff)

Group discusses alternative 2 and the letter from Nancy Wigen and her wanting the council to support the status quo. Dave and Ben

Joel agrees to begin drafting a letter in favor of alternative 2

b. 11:47 Funding (Bill, Rod, Dave)

Nothing on funding, bill introduced about eminent domain. Geoff mentions “paths for people” goal is to reword language to gain better support.

c. 11:49 Education (Blake, Geoff)

No update

5. Sale of State Trail Passes, William Johnson (11:50 – 12:02 p.m.)

Summary on how what being a state trail pass vendor looks like on a county level, 3 state trails.

Would like opinion or recommendation from NRTTC. In Frederick, Luck and Amery the library have bicycles they check out and think it would be nice if there was a ‘fleet pass’ available so people didn’t have to track down a state trail pass vendor. People would also like the state park pass to be available on a 12-month basis not calendar year basis.

Parks and Trails Department in Polk County 20-25 hours in being administrator in getting passes out to vendors and it can be cumbersome system.

If passes were eliminated there would be a loss of money but do think the process could be easier.

Ben Popp mentions even at a Birkie trail level administering a pass is difficult but easier when the pass has a start and finish date. Birkie has seen a huge increase in purchasing when increased messaging has gone out on why it’s important to purchase.

6. Paths for People Discussion, Geoff Snudden (12:02-12:10)

When ‘complete streets’ got held off this group formed to adjust language to bill to restore eminent domain for multimodal purposes. Bike Fed leading effort with support of lobbying company and Trek. Letter from council supporting this would be valuable, once Paths for People has its mission more concrete.

7. E Mountain Bikes, Bill Hauda (12:10-12:26)

Bill discusses article he read on the damage E-mountain bikes have to trails. Geoff talks about Joe Vadeboncoeur’s opinion, a former Trek VP, and his major concern is the evolution of power. Vadeboncoeur’s main concern is that class 1 could evolve into something that could cause more damage, concern is just for e-mountain bikes and not paved trails. Trek is open to and doing more studies to see the extent of the damage.

Group discusses the impact speed may have to the trail and that most riders would utilize speed to get up hills and ride longer.

Joel asks if ebikes are present on crushed limestone surfaces and Bill is uncertain but group does agree that riding wet trails is equally as damaging.

Geoff offers to bring emountain bikes for the group to try, if they'd like

Rod mentions his experience at the national level, national level seems to be taking a more open position in allowing the bikes and the technology is outrunning the ability to make laws

Geoff does say that there is a law in place but there could be amendment to pay more attention to torque

8. DNR Update (12:26-1:15)

Bureau Updates: Kathryn Gehrke

- Hiring update – rec. liaison interviews next week, Missy Vanlanduyt is acting bureau director, ranger recruitment, Badger and Military Ridge trail manager announced soon
- I, Kathryn, taking another position and Sophie Parr will be assisting with your next meeting, after the Recreation Liaison's will be handing the meetings
- Elroy Sparta – done with most repairs in early summer
- Bridge replacement for Mountain Bay in Bonduel
- Stower Seven Lakes – county posted draft plan, public hearing in March, nothing submitted to DNR
- Winona Connector – under construction, on track for summer ribbon cutting
- Door County – Peninsula trail plan near completion, consultant being hired
- Shawano County looking to for Friends Group for Mountain Bay
- Milwaukee area properties are getting ready for Democratic National Convention, FTE staff Angela Vickio and Sam Kueffler are overseeing Hank Aaron ST

Rib Mountain Update: John Pohlman

Working on revision to existing Master Plan at Rib Mountain. In 2017 there was a plan to expand the ski area, and amendment was made to existing master plan to review the ski hill expansion but discussion began to look at entire property master plan not just ski hill expansion.

October of 2019, NRB pulled back amendment and said entire Master Plan needed to be revised. John gives background on Master Planning process. Kick off meeting January 29, comment period closed February 22 and John is working to summarize comments for webpage.

For this group, proposed issues include replacing trails that may be lost during winter skiing, adding additional hiking trails, adding cross country ski trails, adding mountain bike trails at property. Department is consulting with outside organization to help with mountain bike options.

Joel asks potential to connect to 9-mile county park, John mentions that is being looked into as well as a connection to another park north of the park.

Next steps: downhill skiing options with contractor, end of summer will have draft goals and concept ideas for people to review.

DNR Legislative & Real Estate Update: Brigit Brown

- Lyme disease bills passed requiring signage at parks & forests to raise awareness of Lyme disease and requiring that insect repellent be sold at our properties, where feasible. May will be Lyme disease awareness month.
- DNR is looking at including the potential to allow Class 1 ebikes on trails that allow bicycles such as those at Blue Mound State Park (since it's going through a Master Planning right now). We'd appreciate NRTTC's feedback on this concept. (Class 1 bikes require the rider to pedal and stop providing assistance when the bike reaches a speed of 20 mph). This would go through a Master Planning process so users could provide comments.
 - Brigit asks how the group would like to provide comments. Joel mentions the group would like better data and Geoff confirms Trek would be able to help with a study.
- The department is beginning the process of seeking approval to propose updates to the administrative code. This rule package will focus mainly on management of department lands. If the NRTTC has suggestions for updates or changes that they would like to see to administrative code regarding management of department lands, please let us know so we can ensure they are within the scope statement for the update package. The scope statement must be approved by the governor before it can be shared publicly. Once approved by the governor, it will go to the natural resources board, at which time it will become public and then the department can begin to develop specific proposals.
- The NRB met and voted to reconsider its approval of the master plan for the Sauk Prairie State Recreation Area. It considered the testimony and evidence presented at the hearing, as well as additional information including the NRTTC's position as presented in its minutes. It then voted to approve the department's proposed master plan, as previously modified to remove high powered rocketry. The Alliance filed a new lawsuit challenging the NRB's new decision, and the case is pending in Sauk County Circuit Court.
- The department has been approached, as part of the Southwest Savanna ecological landscape master planning effort, to allow ATV/UTV and off-highway motorcycle use on the Badger State Trail from Monroe to Monticello and on the Sugar River State Trail (Monticello to Albany to Broadhead). We are seeking NRTTC's advice on addressing this request.
 - Council would like this topic to be at the next meeting
 - Nonmotorized transportation funds on Badger but not on Sugar River
- DNR acquired a 6.4-mile segment for the Wolf River State Trail in Forest County
 - Some of trail allows motorized use and some does not

DNR Planning Update: Brigit Brown

Blue Mound State Park: The department is now forming the Blue Mound State Park Draft Master Plan. The public will also be given the opportunity to review the draft plan, which is anticipated to be released in Spring 2020. As part of the planning process, the department is considering allowing Class 1 electric bikes on the mountain bike trails at BMSP and welcomes the NRTTC's advice on this topic.

DNR have talked to CORP and IMBA and those representatives were in favor of allowing Class 1 electric mountain bikes.

Northeast Sands Regional Plan: Plan was presented at the January, 2020 NRB meeting. The NRB approved the plan as presented. The final version of the plan is being prepared and will be posted on the Northeast Sands page of the Property Planning web page (dnr.wi.gov, keyword search “property planning”, then select “Northeast Sands”) when it is ready.

Western Prairie Regional Plan – The proposed Western Prairie Regional Master Plan is *anticipated* to be reviewed by the Natural Resources Board at their April 2020 meeting. Visit the DNR website, dnr.wi.gov, search keywords “property planning” and select “Western Prairie” on the page map.

The following are opportunities related to nonmotorized trails on department properties:

Willow River State Park:

- Develop and maintain a network of primitive to lightly developed sustainable off-road bicycling trails. Provide support facilities, such as vault toilets, as needed.
- Allow for a regional multi-use trail to pass through northern portion of the park and connect to the day use and camping area, provided the trail logically connects to a trail segment outside the park boundary.

Kinnickinnic State Park:

- Develop and maintain a network of primitive to lightly developed sustainable off-road bicycling trails. Provide support facilities, such as vault toilets, as needed.

Kinnickinnic River Gorge and Delta State Natural Area:

- If demand exists, develop and maintain a multi-use primitive trail that would allow access to a popular viewing area on the south side of the Devil’s Den or Devil’s Punchbowl. The developed trail would specifically be routed to protect sensitive resources.

Southwest Savanna Regional Plan – In spring 2019, the department initiated planning with a public involvement process. The input received is summarized in the Public Scoping Input Summary posted on the DNR SW Savanna Ecological Landscape webpage. Presently, the department’s planning team is drafting the regional plan.

The public will be given the opportunity to review the draft plan, which we anticipate being released in Spring 2020. We anticipate presenting the plan for NRB approval in Summer 2020.

Badger State Trail, Military Ridge State Trail and Sugar River State Trail are included in this project. At this time the department does not have any specific actions related to nonmotorized trails to consider.

Central Sand Plains Regional Plan – The department engaged the public at a scoping meeting in Adams, WI on August 28. The comment period for public scoping of planning issues to consider ran through September 27. The planning team has now moved into the plan development phase. At this time the department does not have any specific actions related to nonmotorized recreation and transportation trails to consider.

Central Sand Hills Regional Plan – The department is continuing its development of background information for this regional plan. We anticipate posting a series of summary documents describing the region and properties in March 2020.

We anticipate holding an initial public “kick-off” meeting in March to gather input on the properties and their future management, regional ecological and recreation needs. At this time the department does not have any specific actions related to nonmotorized recreation and transportation trails to consider.

9. DOT Update, Jill Morteck Glenzinski (1:25 – 1:33)

Wisconsin’s Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) update will begin in the near future. This is a statewide plan that looks at issue areas that affect highway safety, and there is a nonmotorized safety issue area. Info on how to provide input will be passed along when available.

This spring Teaching Safety Bicycling workshops will be held and two law enforcement trainings. Dates and locations are forthcoming.

Work continues on updating the state bicycle map, which provide conditions on rural highway conditions for bicycling. Partnership with Bike Fed, who will do printing for the maps, anticipate being completed by Spring.

DOT included information on bicycle safety and the state bike map in with Tourism Bike Guide that is being updated. The Bike Event Toolkit, developed by the Governor’s Bicycle Coordinating Council should be included in the Bike Fed Ride Guide as well. The Bike Event Toolkit provides information on hosting/organizing bike events.

A press release for the report on the economic impact of bicycling prepared for the Governor’s Bicycle Coordinating Council is forthcoming.

Transportation Alternatives Program: 2020-2024 application cycle is underway being reviewed; anticipate award announcements in Summer/Fall

CMAQ: 11 Counties in SE Wisconsin, typically at least 1 bike/ped project funded. Anticipate the 2020-2024 program cycle awards to be announced soon.

10. Public Comment (1:33)

None

11. Nominate Potential Future Items (1:34 – 1:40)

Group would like DNR update on SW Savannah Plan and motorized access progress

William Johnson suggests group reviews DNR trail incident reports or narrative of incident reports – so group can help mitigate

12. Next Meeting Date (1:40)

June 24, 2020 – in person meeting Schmeeckle Reserve or Wausau, 10am to 3pm

13. Adjourn (1:41)

Motion moved to adjourn by Rod, Anne seconds, all approve.